

Applicants : Brent J. Bos, Stephen J. Forbes and Roger L. Veldman
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REMARKS

Receipt of the Office Action mailed February 12, 2003, in the above-identified patent application is respectfully acknowledged. Claims 84-218 remain in the application. Claims 119, 123, 150, 154, 181, 185, 187, 213, and 217 have been amended herein. The remainder of the claims now present in the application are in the same form as previously added in the Preliminary Amendment filed February 25, 2002.

In addition, a Terminal Disclaimer and disclaimer fee of \$110 are submitted herewith with respect to U.S. 6,412,973 to overcome the double patenting rejection set forth by the Examiner in the Office Action.

Further, corrected drawings showing the drawing corrections previously approved by the Examiner are enclosed herewith along with further proposed drawing corrections shown in red in the attached copies of Figs. 2, 6 and 7 to overcome the drawing objections set forth by the Examiner in the present Office Action.

Finally, legible copies of the patents and publications previously listed in the Information Disclosure Statement filed May 30, 2002, which the Examiner was unable to consider because of the lack of legible copies, are submitted herewith along with additional copies of sheets 1-4 of Forms PTO-1449 submitted with that Information Disclosure Statement so that the Examiner may indicate his consideration thereof.

Reconsideration of the application, withdrawal of the non-statutory double-patenting rejection, withdrawal of the claim objections, approval and entry of the proposed, corrected drawings, approval of the additional drawing corrections to Figs. 2, 6 and 7, and consideration of the remaining items from the Information Disclosure Statement along with a notice of such consideration is respectfully requested along with a Notice of Allowance for this application.

The Double Patenting Rejection

The Examiner has rejected claims 84-218 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over various claims of U.S. Patent No. 6,412,973 either alone or taken together with U.S. 4,882,656. In response, Applicants herewith submit a Terminal Disclaimer in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.321(c) and signed by an officer of the assignee of the present application and in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 3.73(b) along with the

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statutory disclaimer fee of \$110. This Terminal Disclaimer is based on U.S. 6,412,973 and, therefore, overcomes the double-patenting rejection of claims 84-218. Approval and entry of this Terminal Disclaimer is respectfully requested along with withdrawal of the double-patenting rejection.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to claims 119, 123, 150, 154, 181, 185, 213 and 217 as being informal and unclear with respect to what the "said portion" referred to. Applicants have now clarified these claims and have adopted the additional language suggested by the Examiner, namely, "of the vehicle interior below said mirror assembly" in each of the indicated amended claims such that the claims now clearly refer back to the proper antecedent basis in the claims from which they depend.

In addition, a period has been added at the end of claim 187.

Accordingly, in view of these amendments, it is respectfully submitted that claims 119, 123, 150, 154, 181, 185, 187, 213 and 217 are now in condition for allowance and withdrawal of the claim objections is respectfully requested.

Corrected Drawings

With the present Response, Applicants have submitted seven (7) sheets of corrected, formal drawings including the corrections to Figs. 9 and 20 proposed with the Preliminary Amendment when the present application was filed, which proposed drawing corrections have been approved by the Examiner in the present Office Action. Approval and entry of these seven (7) corrected, formal drawing sheets is, therefore, respectfully requested.

In addition, the Examiner objected to the drawings as failing to show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. The Examiner required a showing of the light conduit, fiber-optic element (cable or bundle) with diffusively reflective or specular reflective inner walls, the transmission selector indicator panel, switch, cup holder, bin and ashtray. Applicants have now shown such features in the proposed corrections to Figs. 2, 6 and 7 as outlined in red in the attached two (2) sheets of drawings showing the proposed drawing corrections. In addition, the specification has been amended at page 6, lines 21 and 22 and page 11, lines 16, 19 and 21 to add reference numerals for the features now shown in the proposed amended drawings and to indicate that the light source 90 may be mounted in a

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light conduit, a portion of which may comprise cylindrical adaptor 94. It is respectfully submitted that, as amended, the drawings now show all of the elements set forth in the claims. As will be seen from the specification amendments and the proposed drawing corrections to Figs. 2, 6 and 7, no new matter has been entered. Therefore, approval and entry of the proposed drawing corrections to Figs. 2, 6 and 7 is respectfully requested along with approval of the amendments to the specification at pages 6 and 11 as set forth above.

Information Disclosure Statement

The Examiner indicated that the Information Disclosure Statement filed May 30, 2002, failed to comply with 37 C.F.R. 1.98(a)(2) which requires a legible copy of each listed item stating that no copies had been provided for several patents or publications listed on sheets 1-5 (sic 1-4) of Form PTO-1449 submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement on that date.

In response, Applicants have submitted additional copies of sheets 1-4 of Forms PTO-1449 as submitted with that Information Disclosure Statement along with copies of each of the patents or publications listed thereon which had previously been crossed out by the Examiner in the Office Action. Consideration of each of the patents or publications for which copies are now enclosed with this Response is respectfully requested along with return of signed copies of sheets 1-4 of Forms PTO-1449 to indicate consideration of these items by the Examiner. It is requested that these signed Forms PTO-1449 be returned to the undersigned counsel for Applicants with a Notice of Allowance for this application.

Summary

Accordingly, review and reconsideration of the application and withdrawal of the double-patenting rejection based on the enclosed Terminal Disclaimer and disclaimer fee, withdrawal of the claim objections in view of the above claim amendments, withdrawal of the drawing objections in view of the enclosed corrected, formal drawings incorporating the previously approved proposed drawing corrections and the proposed amendments to drawing Figs. 2, 6 and 7, as well as consideration of the patents and publications from the Information Disclosure Statement filed May 30, 2002, which had previously not been considered by the Examiner is respectfully requested. A Notice of Allowance along with signed copies of sheets 1-4 of Forms PTO-1449 showing consideration of the above-mentioned reference

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items is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: Van Dyke, Gardner, Linn & Burkhart, LLP

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Date

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